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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/854,865	05/14/2001	Michael Philip McIntosh	TUC920010006US1	9915
33595	7590	04/11/2005	EXAMINER	
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION 9000 SOUTH RITA ROAD TUCSON, AZ 85744			KNOLL, CLIFFORD H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2112	
DATE MAILED: 04/11/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/854,865

Applicant(s)

MCINTOSH ET AL.

Examiner

Clifford H. Knoll

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 13-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to communication filed 1/31/05. Currently claims 1-36 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. *Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beyers (US 6072804 A) in view of well-known features, as exemplified by Falkenberg (US 6347963 B1).*

Regarding claim 8, Beyers discloses a plurality of individual frames connected in series, a multi-channel bus coupled to each frame (e.g., col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 12), a power bus return bus carrying information indicative of the last frame (e.g., col. 3, lines 10-12), where one of the frames is a first frame (e.g., col. 4, lines 17-20) a signal indicative of power being supplied to it and generating a delayed signal each subsequent frame receiving said delayed signal and generating a further delayed signal and each frame generating a pulse on said frame bus (e.g., col. 4, lines 15-17), one of said frames being defined as said last frame and receiving said delayed signal and generating a signal to activate said power return bus (e.g., col. 4, lines 26-31) and

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wherein the total count counter being incremented by each said pulse until said power return is activated (e.g., col. 8, lines 5-9). Beyers does not expressly mention an outer door that may be open for repair; however the Examiner takes Official Notice that access doors are commonly employed to enable repair of devices such as those of Beyers, as exemplified by Falkenberg (e.g., col. 3, lines 5-12). It would be obvious to combine Beyers with standard access techniques because the use of a standard door to enable access to internal components would make repair of Beyers devices significantly easier.

Regarding claim 9, Beyers also discloses where the total count counter represents the total number connected together (e.g., col. 19, lines 22-24).

Regarding claim 10, Beyers also discloses wherein at least one said frame generates a frame pulse (e.g., col. 4, lines 15-17).

Regarding claim 11, Beyers also discloses an ID counter being incremented by each said pulse (e.g., col. 8, line 6).

Regarding claim 12, Beyers also discloses the ID counter represents the individual ID (e.g., col. 8, line 6).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 and 13-36 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clifford H. Knoll whose telephone number is 571-272-3636. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0630-1500.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H. Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

chk



MARK H. RINEHART
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